

- Abdomen yellow, with a broad black band. . . *prunella*, Ckll.
 Abdomen black, with a yellow band on segment 4; segment 1 more or less yellow or fulvous; 2 and 3 black, with coppery hairs intermixed *iridis*, Ckll. & Porter.
 9. Abdomen with the two basal segments yellow, the rest black. *scutellaris*, Cress.
 Abdomen with at least three segments yellow. 10.
 10. Yellow very bright; wings very dark; pleura black *sonorus*, Say.
 Yellow not so bright, more ochreous; wings not so dark; pleura mostly or wholly light. 11.
 11. Hair of face and vertex yellow *monarda*, Ckll. & Porter.
 Hair of face and vertex black *fervidus*, Fabr.

It is intended in a later paper to give an account of the mouth-parts of the several species, after the manner of Radoszkowski.

Mesilla Park, New Mexico, U.S.A.,
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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

The Geography of Mammals. By W. L. SCLATER, M.A., F.Z.S., and P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner, & Co., Ltd. 1899.

THIS book of 328 pp., with 50 text-illustrations, tables, and 8 folding maps, fills a gap in our series of zoological works of reference. It is divided into three parts or sections:—a first (of seven chapters) on the Terrestrial Areas as determined by Mammalian Distribution; a second (of one chapter) on the Marine Regions in relation to the Cetacea and Sirenia; and a third (like the first, of seven chapters) on the Distribution of the several Orders of Mammals. Of these sections, the first is a reprint, with slight alterations, of some articles contributed during 1894–1897 by Sclater Fils to the ‘Geographical Journal,’ the second a reprint of a paper by Sclater Père in the Zoological Society’s ‘Proceedings’ for 1897, the third (for which the latter also is alone responsible) constituting the original portion of the work.

The maps are coloured and most admirable, and it is difficult to over-estimate the value of the illustrations, many of which are new and highly welcome. Following Huxley, the authors recognize as their three leading areas the Arctogæa, Neogæa, and Notogæa, and in their determination of subregions and description of representative faunas they have succeeded in maintaining a uniformity of treatment and general accuracy which is in itself a strong recommendation

of their book. Concerning the origin of the geographical regions, they have mainly adopted the views of the senior author, originally based, as all students of chorology are aware, on the study of the avifauna, and this, it seems to us, with an insufficient recognition of some of the more special features in mammalian distribution. Dealing with the difficult question of the delimitation of the Australian from the Oriental Region, they, with full justification, relegate the Celebes to the latter, drawing their Wallace's line between Bali and Lombok. The reader turns with disappointment from their comprehensive treatment of this vexed topic to that of others; which he finds dismissed in far too summary and one-sided a manner, as, for example, the origin of the Galapagos Islands, the argument for the continental nature of which is not discussed. Nor is the book free of contradiction in its leading theses, as with the assertion (p. 217) that "the principal masses of land and water are not of modern origin, but have existed mainly in their present shapes throughout all ages," which is not consistent with statements occurring in other parts of the book. Greater regard for palæontology would have necessitated profound modification in many of the conclusions to which the authors have arrived, and we can only regret that important facts of which this may be said to be true have been unrecognized.

The authors wisely introduce here and there facts of anatomy and physiology which are strikingly exceptional—to wit, the allusion to the shedding of the horn by the prongbuck. If this, however, why not a mention of the narial prolongations, habits, and alleged vegetable contents of the stomach of the Delphinid *Sotalia Tenzii*? the existence of which genus in African rivers, by-the-bye, is entirely overlooked. We are glad to note the allusion to *Romerolagus* and certain other recently described forms of importance, and hail with satisfaction the non-acceptance of the proposal to substitute *Procavia* for *Hyrax*, *Odobenus* for *Trichechus*. We would remark, however, that *Otocyon* is not a dog, and that throughout the book there is a lack of uniformity in the usage of family and generic names and, in places, of agreement as to leading assertions. This is the more remarkable since the articles which so largely compose the work, having been subjected to "slight alterations," ought to have been correlated, and since the authors acknowledge the services of two assistants who are supposed to have read the proofs.

The imprimatur of the senior author will alone ensure the popularity of the work. It contains a mass of really useful material compiled at immense pains; and if the authors will give us a new edition, thoroughly revised in its typographical detail and choice of names, more extensively palæontological, better up to date, and less biassed in the treatment of its broader topics and chief generalizations, they will perform a lasting service to the student of animal life.